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EXCISE 128

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Q3-* DATE *5*

PORTIONS DESIRED: AS INDICATED

183
10 ED; 115

JAMAICA -- FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ELECTION PREPARATION FRONT

Embassy Kingston told CAR this morning that the GOJ has authorized the Electoral Advisory Committee to purchase and transport to Jamaica 10 IBM data input machines for use in updating Jamaican electoral rolls. While the Committee had originally requested permission to import 15 machines, it believes that it can do the job with 10. We are assuring that IBM is apprised of the situation and will be ready to move quickly on delivering the machines. In another development, Embassy Kingston reports that the process of inscribing voters got underway June 7 and, contrary to fears, began in an atmosphere of calm and non-violence. The inscription or "enumeration" process is a vital step towards updating the electoral rolls. We have informed GOC of developments.

JAMAICA -- JLP PARTY MEMBER VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PRE-ELECTION VIOLENCE (S):

(b)(1) ED
[] and now full-time JLP party member, summarized on May 27 his party's views on the increasingly violent scene in Jamaica. He had evidence that the PNP was well supplied with weapons throughout the island, although there was no sign that the party was handing out money in the constituencies. JNP leaders are convinced that the 12,000 youths to be employed by the government over a 2-week period to help out on farms are, in fact, to be used to intimidate enumerators due to start work on June 7. Manley has said the recruitment of youth would be totally impartial, but the recruitment is in the hands of Leroy Cooke, Chairman of the Social Development Commission and his own picked officers. JLP leaders fear leftwingers who will stop at nothing to maintain the PNP in power. []

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